



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1890-07-08

**Letter from [John Muir] to Helen [Muir], [1890] Jul 8.**

John Muir

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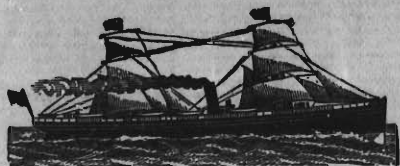
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## Pacific Coast Steamship Co.



On board Alaska Excursion Steamship Queen.

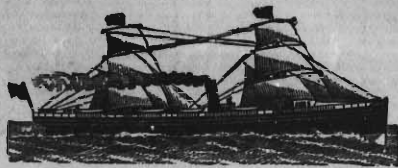
Mr. Gemin  
Glacier Bay <sup>189</sup>  
July 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear little Helen

I wish I could see  
you Papa is pretty lonesome  
sometimes because I want so to  
have you beside me. The pretty  
flowers grow over the rocks though  
it is pretty cold, & wild geese are  
on the tops of the mountains & a few  
seals & trout live in the cold water  
But I feel like poor Paddy Grogan  
sometimes & then I have to look at  
your picture. I live in a little cloth  
house but Captain Carrall says that  
he is going to bring me lumber next time  
for a little wooden house. Tell Momma  
that the Captain is very kind & gives  
me everything I want. I got a  
sack of potatoes & some oranges  
& meat & things. & the Engineer  
is just now making iron for shoes

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## Pacific Coast Steamship Co.



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On board Alaska Excursion Steamship Queen.

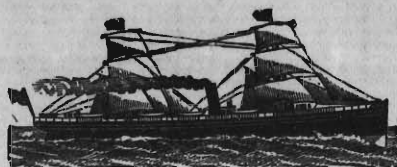
for the runners of my little <sup>189</sup> sled  
 I am going to pull on the ice  
 when I go to look at it.  
 I was up a big mountain &  
 saw some fine pretty hills  
 & I made pictures of them  
 & will bring them back for  
 you to see.

Tell mamma I can eat  
 very big dinners now I had beans  
 & mash & bacon for breakfast  
 this morning, & a whole quart of  
 coffee, & beans & bacon & cheese  
 & another quart of coffee for  
 dinner & a hard tack. Sometimes  
 we have dried peaches or apricots  
 & cheese & even pancakes & yeast  
 powder bread but it is very hard  
 making the fire burn in the  
 rain & wind when the weather is  
 bad. Still it only makes us the  
 hungrier. For sometimes we

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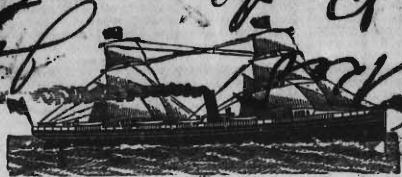


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On board Alaska Excursion Steamship Queen.

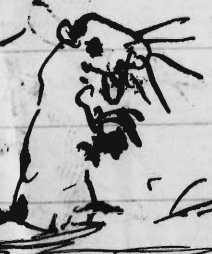
no night here. It is 9 o'clock  
 just now & I suppose you  
 are sleeping my little darling  
 & the ship is going soon but  
 I want to write until the ship  
 starts I am writing in the Captain's  
 Cabin & he will send me ashore  
 to my own little cloth house  
 before the ship starts. He sent  
 a boat for me when he came  
 in with all the people into this  
 place to see the ice to tell me  
 to come & eat dinner with him.  
 & so I had one good dinner  
 with champagne but no beer.  
 When I was on the big mountain  
 two days ago, I sat on a mat  
 of beautiful flowers that are  
 called bynthus & Cassiope &  
 anemones & a lot of others making

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a picture of the mtn & gls<sup>189</sup>  
 & I heard something saying  
 cheep, cheep, & I looked  
 around & saw a little striped mar  
 mout about 8 inches long standing  
 on his hind legs looking at me  
 like a little boy he was stand  
 in the flowers & had a nice time  
 but he must have had a dark  
 cold time in his nest in the winter  
 I then I heard something ee, ee,  
 ee as if he felt - comes some  
 pitiful & I looked & saw a big  
 brown marmot, another kind  
 standing like a rusty old man  
 with small eyes. Standing on  
 the other side of me & this is the  
 company I had. Here are their  
 pictures.



Grandma

Goodbye  
 Mamma  
 Grandpa

the ship is  
 some

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